Application No. 10/519,639 Paper Dated: February 25, 2010

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 4, 2009

Attorney Docket No. 0470-048036

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A TEMPO-free process of cleaning a polymer membrane filter containing residues from filtering beverages, the residues containing water-insoluble proteins and/or polyphenols attached to the filter and polysaccharides, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with a solution containing an oxidizing agent by back-flushing, said oxidizing agent being a peroxide compound and being used in the presence of a transition metal,

wherein the back-flush is performed at a rate of 0.5-100 liters of the solution per h per m² of filter surface.

- 14. (Cancelled).
- 15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the transition metal is manganese or iron.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the transition metal is complexed with a polyamine.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing agent is a peracid.

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19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A TEMPO-free process of cleaning a polymer membrane filter containing residues from filtering beverages, the residues containing water-insoluble proteins and/or polyphenols attached to the filter and polysaccharides, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with a solution containing a hypohalous acid by back-flushing.

wherein the back-flush is performed at a rate of 0.5-100 liters of the solution per h per m² of filter surface.

- 21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 20, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with an alkaline solution prior to said contacting with said solution containing a hypohalous acid.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the alkaline solution has a pH between 11 and 14.
- 23. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the back-flush is performed for a period of time between 1 and 100 minutes.
- 24. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the back-flush is performed for a period of time between 1 and 100 minutes.